(b) Various measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generating capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of transmission and distribution losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

(c) and (d) Kerala has already achieved cent per cent village electrification.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal at present to include Kanayankavayal village in Idukki District under the Urjagram Scheme since the State Nodal Agency had already initiated action for the establishment of an Urjagram in another village in the same District.

Gas Pipeline from Bombay High to Cochin

3540. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay a gas pipeline from Bombay High to Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The proposal for a Southern Gas Grid is being examined by an Inter-Ministerial Group.

Petroleum Reserves in Bombay High—Cochin Coastal Belt

3541. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are tremendous petroleum reserves in coastal belt from Bombay High to Cochin; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken to tap such a vast belt and the foreign assistance sought in respect of investment and high technology in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) While crude oil is already being produced from the Bombay offshore basin, exploration in the Kerala-Konkan offshore basin has not yielded any success so far.

Twelve blocks in the Kerala-Konkan basin and Four deep water blocks in the Bombay offshore basin are being offered for exploration in the Fourth Round of bidding.

Increase in passengers capacity on Cochin-Bombay Sector

3542. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines flights have been extended to some new places and if so, the details thereof?

(b) whether passenger capacity has been increased in some sectors and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the passenger capacity in Cochin-Bombay sector and increase the number of flights to meet the growing need of passengers traffic?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Effective August 1, 1991, Indian Airlines has restored its services to Gwalior, Kanpur and Allahabad.

(b) Yes, Sir. Effective August 1, 1991, Indian Airlines has increased its capacity on Hyderabad-Bombay, Hyderabad-Delhi and Calcutta-Madras sectors by introducing additional A-320 flights and also by replacing B-737 services with A-320 services.

(c) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Dehar-Bhiwani Power Line

3543. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work to lay 400 K.V. Dehar Bhiwani line had been started under Beas Transmission system stage-II in 1980;

(b) whether delay is on account of resentment by the landowners of Himachal Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government of Punjab

has also backed out to share of cost spent on this scheme;

(d) the extent of amount spent by Rajasthan thereon;

(e) whether it is a fact that Rajasthan may not be benefited by this line; and

(f) if so, whether Union Government propose to reimburse the amount spent by the State Government of Rajasthan and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e) The construction of 400 K.V. Dehar-Bhiwani transmission line was started in 1980 by Beas Construction Board (BCB) for evacuation of power from Dehar Power Plant Stage-II (Himachal Pradesh). Originally the line was to be routed through Patiala but the Government of Punjab disagreed to share its cost as according to them the line will not give any benefit to their System. In view of this it was decided that the share of Punjab for the line from 1984-85 onwards shall be met by the States of Haryana and Rajasthan. Accordingly, the Rajasthan's share upto 30.6.1991 is estimated at about Rs. 37.50 crores.

The line was commissioned in January, 1990. Rajasthan is the major beneficiary of this line and continues to draw its share of power from the Dehar Power Project over this line and 220 K.V. System' connecting Rajasthan and Haryana with B.B.M.B. System. This line also helps in providing system stability and voltage support to the Rajasthan alongwith the other system.

As the line is not covered under Centrally Sponsored Programme of Central Government's loan assistance to the States, the question of any reimbursement to Rajasthan for the construction of this transmission line does not arise.

[English]

Tourism Lodges etc. in Various States

3544. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI PRITHAVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of the tourist lodges, hotels and yatri niwas constructed with the central financial assistance during 1990-91 and 1991-92 (till date) in the country and particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra;

(b) the amount allocated for each proposal submitted by the State Government for this purpose; and

(c) the steps, proposed to be taken by the Union Government to develop tourism and to attract more foreigners to these States during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) The Central Department of Tourism does not provide financial assistance for construction of hotels. During 1990-91, financial assistance was extended for construction of 72 tourist lodges and 4 yatri niwases amounting to Rs. 1066.61 lakhs and Rs. 170.22 lakhs respectively. During 1991-92 (till date) Central assistance has been sanctioned for construction of 17 tourist lodges amounting to Rs. 234.83 lakhs.

In respect of the projects of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, details are given in the attached statement.

(c) The Department of Tourism has taken a number of steps to develop tourism which include extending financial assistance to the State Governments for development of tourism infrastructure and effective publicity and promotion in Overseas markets.